

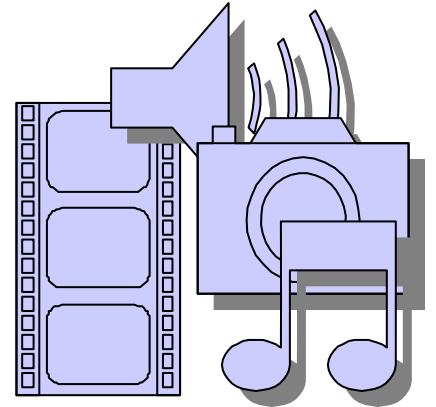
Be Creative @ Your Library

Summer Reading Program Theme for 2009

Nebraska Library Association/ Nebraska Educational Media Association Conference

October 2008

Sally Snyder
Nebraska Library Commission



Picture Books

Alda, Arlene ***HERE A FACE, THERE A FACE***

Unp. Tundra Books 2008 \$14.95 ISBN 978-0- 88776-845-3

Photographs of everyday things show faces everywhere! Faces shine out from trees, houses, pavement, equipment and more. Very brief & simple text recognizes art can be found anywhere!

Anderson, Peggy Parry ***CHUCK'S BAND***

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-96506-9

Chuck, a farmer, buys an instrument (a banjo) and one by one all the animals get an instrument, too. They play music together throughout the story, as animals are added to the band. But the cat looks miserable.

Bang-Campbell, Monica ***LITTLE RAT MAKES MUSIC***

Illus. by Molly Bang unp. Harcourt 2007 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-15-205305-5

Little Rat is surrounded by music, both her parents love it. Now she wants to learn the violin, but practice is hard – and boring. Her teacher, who appears gruff and unforgiving, cleverly gives her a goal to make practice more appealing. Learning an instrument takes time and many mistakes, as this book makes clear to new music lovers.

Bridges, Shirin Yim ***THE UMBRELLA QUEEN***

Illus. by Taeun Yoo unp. Greenwillow, HarperCollins 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-075040-4

Everyone in Noot's village in Thailand works on the same thing – umbrellas. Finally, Noot is invited to paint. Flowers and butterflies are always painted on the umbrellas, but Noot paints some elephants on hers. Her parents correct her, so all day she paints as she was told on the large umbrellas, in the evening she paints elephants on some little umbrellas, and dreams of being chosen as the Umbrella Queen.

Celebration of art, and of individuality. Children may want to paint an umbrella of their own. (paper plate & straw? Paint the top & glue straw to the bottom?)

Calmenson, Stephanie ***JAZZMATAZZ!***

Illus. by Bruce Degen unp. HarperCollins 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-077289-5

Great rhythm and the repeated phrase, “Doo-dat, diddy-dat, diddy-dat, doo!” will have kids jumping in to shout along. Great celebration of music and rhythm.

“Doo-dat, diddy-dat, diddy-dat, doo!”

I bang-a-bang, bang! How about you?

Dog point to Cat, who says, ‘It’s no riddle.

You know what I play, I’m the cat with the fiddle.’ Doo-dat, diddy-dat, diddy-dat, doo!”

Gary, Meredith ***SOMETIMES YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT***

Illus. by Lisa Brown unp. HarperCollins 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-114015-0

Front & back covers, one 2-page spread featuring a puppet show, two 2-page spreads and the final illustration feature painting, in this book that tells children they don’t always get to do what they want, but sometimes, they do! The picture of the boy on the potty will catch readers attention (he looks a little old for it, to me).

Hanson, Warren ***BUGTOWN BOOGIE***

Illus. by Steve Johnson & Lous Fancher unp. HarperCollins 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-059937-9

Another good read-aloud, with lots of rhythm and onomatopoeia sounds will get children bobbing along. Great for those kids who didn’t want to give up bugs for this summer.

Harris, Jay M. ***THE MOON IS LA LUNA: Silly Rhymes in English & Spanish***

Illus. by Matthew Cordell unp Houghton Mifflin 2007 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-618-64645-6

Silly rhymes that may inspire children to create silly rhymes of their own. Good read aloud choice, too.

Heap, Sue ***DANNY’S DRAWING BOOK***

Unp. Candlewick 2008 \$9.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-3654-8

Danny and his friend, Ettie, make a story one day during a visit to the zoo, by Danny drawing it in his yellow drawing book. When the story is over, Ettie wonders how to get home. Danny knows – he just closes his drawing book. And they wonder what they will draw tomorrow.

Holabird, Katharine ***ANGELINA AT THE PALACE***

Illus. by Helen Craig unp. Viking (Penguin) 2005 \$13.99 ISBN 978-0-670-06048-8

Angelina, Cousin Henry and Miss Lily go to the palace to help the princesses prepare a dance for the King & Queen's anniversary. After they arrive, Miss Lily is ill and asks Angelina to work with the princesses for her. Nervous & apprehensive, Angelina agrees. A simple, predictable story young aspiring ballerinas will love.

Hutchins, Hazel & Gail Herbert **MATTLAND**

Illus. by Dušan Petričić unp. Annick Press Ltd. 2008 \$19.95 ISBN 978-1-55451-121-1

Newly moved, again, Matt is outside and sees only mud and puddles. He picks up a stick, draws a line and calls it Snake River. Soon Mattland is born. As items are added to the landscape color begins to show in the illustrations. Soon a girl stops by and hands him a stick. Creating something out of nothing and finding others to share it.

Kann, Victoria & Elizabeth Kann **PURPLICIOUS**

Unp. HarperCollins 2007 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-124405-6

In this second book about her, Pinkalicious is dismayed to learn that pink is "over" and all the other girls now like black best. But Pinkalicious is true to her color, although the girls tease her all week at school. But on Monday a new girl is painting a blue cake, and Pinkalicious learns that pink is great, since with blue - it makes purple!

Morgan, Mary **DRAGON PIZZERIA**

Unp. Knopf 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-375-82309-1

BeBop creates delicious pizzas, as ordered, and Spike delivers them to various Fairy Tale characters. Each pizza is a clue to the character. Being creative with cooking! Kids could draw their own creative pizza after hearing the story.

O'Connor, Jane **FANCY NANCY'S FAVORITE FANCY WORDS: From Accessories to Zany**

Illus. by Robin Preiss Glasser unp. HarperCollins 2008 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-06-154923-6

Words are to poetry and creative writing as colors are to painting. Readers who enjoy Fancy Nancy will love this chance to expand their vocabulary with this fancy-word alphabet book.

Perkins, Lynne Rae **THE CARDBOARD PIANO**

Unp. Greenwillow 2008 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-154265-7

Debbie loves her piano lessons, but Tina can't doesn't have a piano. Debbbie makes a cardboard one for her to use after hearing about a famous musician who used one once while traveling. Tina tries it, but it isn't much fun. Friendship can be hard.

Pinkwater, Daniel ***BEAR'S PICTURE***

Illus. by D.B. Johnson unp. Houghton Mifflin 1972, 2008 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-75923-1

A re-illustrated, re-issue of the 1972 title. Bear gets busy painting a picture, when 2 gentlemen walking by stop to comment. None of their comments are helpful, and bear ignores them. When bear tells them what he painted a picture of, they say, "It doesn't look like any of those things to us." Bear replies, "It doesn't have to, it is MY picture." A terrific message to children as they embark on a creative summer!

Rumford, James ***SILENT MUSIC: A Story of Baghdad***

Unp. Roaring Brook Press 2008 \$17.95 ISBN 978- 1-59643-276-5

A boy talks about the war in Bagdad during 2003, and the things he likes to do, one of which is the art of calligraphy. -- "I love to make the ink flow—from my pen stopping and starting, gliding and sweeping, leaping, dancing to the silent music in my head." -- A good introduction to Arabic calligraphy and how different, and beautiful it is. Also introduces a boy who lives far away from us but has many of the same needs and wishes.

Schaefer, Carole Lexa ***DRAGON DANCING***

Illus. by Pierr Morgan Viking (Penguin) 2007

After hearing a story about a dragon, the class is working on decorations for Mei Lin's birthday when they become inspired and create a long dragon (partially imaginative) that they parade across "China" before returning at their teachers call.

Sklansky, Amy E. ***THE DUCK WHO PLAYED KAZOO***

Illus. by Tiphonie Beeke unp. Clarion Books 2008 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-42854-0

Rhyming story of a duck who still plays the kazoo but is lonely since a hurricane blew through. Fall comes, he packs his bag and heads south. A simple story of friendship and sharing, with an upbeat conclusion.

Spiro, Ruth ***LESTER FIZZ, BUBBLE-GUM ARTIST***

Illus. By Thor Wickstrom unp. Dutton 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-478614

Lester is surrounded by art and artists, at home and at school. (Adults will recognize names and some altered art.) Then one day his Uncle Edgar gave him some advice, and he blew a wonderfully artistic bubble with his gum. The school art contest is his goal, if he wins his family will see him as an artist.

Stone, Tanya Lee ***SANDY'S CIRCUS***

Illus. by Boris Kulikov unp. Viking 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-670-06268-3

Alexander Calder first became known because of his moveable circus he created from wire and other objects. He performed his circus to the delight of onlookers. A glimpse into the life of this creative artist.

Tafolla, Carmen ***WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A REBOZO?***

Illus. by Amy Córdova unp. Tricycle Pres 2008 \$14.95 ISBN 978-1-58246-220-2

A young girl explains all the ways her Mama, brother, sister, grandma, Tío, Daddy, (and more!) can use a rebozo. Includes a brief, one-page explanation of the historical use of this Mexican shawl; and that many Latina women wear them today.

Tashiro, Chisato ***FIVE NICE MICE***

Unp. Penguin 2007 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-698-40058-0

Five mice friends hear some music and follow the sound to the park, where some frogs are giving a wonderful concert, for frogs only! The mice decide maybe they can also make music, so they look all around for things to use to make instruments, practice, and give a concert where mice and frogs are welcome. An upbeat story that shows sharing the music is better than excluding others.

Walsh, Ellen Stoll ***MOUSE SHAPES***

Unp. Harcourt 2007 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-15-206091-6

Sequel to *Mouse Paint*, in this story the mice are very creative in ways to use the various shapes they found. They even scare away the cat! You're certain to need a pile of shapes for listeners to experiment with after reading this at story time.

Weeks, Sarah ***BUNNY FUN***

Illus. by Sam Williams unp. Harcourt 2008 \$14.00 ISBN 978-0-15-205838-8

Bunny and his friend, a mouse, find plenty to do on a rainy day. Creative! (Parents will say, "too creative!") painting, dance, cutting & folding papa's newspaper, and more keep them busy.

Wells, Rosemary ***YOKO WRITES HER NAME***

Unp. Hyperion Bks 2008 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-7868-0371-2

Yoko writes her name in Japanese when the teacher asks them too. The kindergarten class suspects she isn't able to write and the Japanese is just scribbles. After some teasing, Yoko shares her knowledge and all the class gets creative learning to write their names in Japanese.

Wheeler, Lisa ***JAZZ BABY***

Illus. by R. Gregory Christie unp. Harcourt 2007 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-15-202522-9

Another book with plenty of rhythm and beat! "Brothers hands tap. Sister's hands snap. Itty-bitty Baby's hands Clap-Clap-Clap!" As more family members arrive and baby is handed around to them all, the hip-hop and bee-bop continues, even the neighbors are dancin'. Til Baby is sleepy-eyed, and put to bed. A celebration of music, rhythm and family.

Wing, Natasha ***GO TO BED, MONSTER!***

Illus. by Sylvie Kantorovitz Harcourt 2007 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-15-205775-6

Lucy did NOT want to go to sleep. She drew some shapes on paper, and they turned into ... a monster. They play together until Lucy is tired, but Monster does not want to go to bed. Lucy has to solve all kinds of needs (she draws "a mountain of meatballs," "a bucket of water" etc.) before they finally fall asleep.

Wolf, Sallie ***TRUCK STUCK***

Illus. by Andy Robert Davies unp. Charlesbridge 2008 \$14.95 ISBN 978-1-58089-119-6

A semi gets stuck under the overpass. Lots of traffic backs up behind him, and they try different ways to get the truck out. Finally, a police officer has a creative idea.

Young, Amy ***BELINDA IN PARIS***

UNP. Viking 2005 \$15.99 ISBN 978- 0-06-03693-6

Belinda, the ballerina with laaaarge feet, is going to dance in Paris – but her point shoes went to Pago Pagar. Gabrielle and Belinda hurry about Paris to try to get a new pair made in time for the performance.

Zemach, Kaethe ***MS. McCaw LEARNS TO DRAW***

Unp. Scholastic 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-439-82914-4

Dudley Ellington has trouble learning, but his teacher, Ms. McCaw is patient and always explains things to him until he understands. One day, she gives up trying to draw a profile on the board. Now it is Dudley's turn to patiently repeat the lesson, filling the board with profiles, until his teacher understands. A terrific recognition that people have areas in which they excel.

Nonfiction Picture Books

Clinton, Catherine ***PHILLIS'S BIG TEST***

Illus. by Sean Qualls unp. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-73739-0

Phillis (17), a slave in Boston, must face a gathering of 18 learned men and prove that she is the author of a set of poems in question. The book has her walking to this meeting, and as she walks she thinks back over her life. The book ends as she enters the room full of gentlemen. An Epilogue notes that no record of what transpired in that room exists, but afterwards all 18 men signed a document asserting her authorship of the poetry.

Goodman, Joan Elizabeth ***BALLET BUNNIES***

Unp. Marshall Cavendish 2008 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-7614-5392-5

Good introductory information about ballet with a class of bunnies demonstrating the positions and the movements. Includes a glossary.

Micklethwait, Lucy ***I SPY COLORS IN ART***

Unp. Greenwillow 2007 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-134837-2

14 works of art are highlighted in this “I spy” type book. Some items are easy to spot, others a little more difficult. A good choice, but I prefer the next title:

Raczka, Bob ***ARTFUL READING***

Unp. Millbrook Press 2008 \$18.95 (school/library) \$25.26 (retail) ISBN 978-0-8225-6754-7

A beautiful book that is a great story time choice, or use it to discuss the art included and as a starting point to find more art that includes reading. The text is simple – stating things like “Read one good book. Then read another.” Each illustration is from paintings by 23 well-known artists, such as Picasso (cover), Degas, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Vermeer, Cassatt, Renoir, and more. The last 3 pages of the book credit the artist and includes a brief paragraph about them and/or the painting.

Thompson, Lauren ***BALLERINA DREAMS***

Photos by James Estrin unp. Feiwel & Friends 2007 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-312-37029-9

Five young girls (ages 3 – 7) wish to be ballerinas. They each have a physical disability that makes them work harder than ever to strengthen their muscles to be ready for the recital. This book focuses on the recital and tells of their efforts to make their dream come true.

Whitehead, Kathy ***ART FROM HER HEART: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter***

Illus. by Shane Evans unp. Putnam 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-24219-9

Born in late 1886 or early 1887, Clementine (pronounced “Cleminteen”) worked as a manual laborer in Louisiana. She first sold her art for 25 cents apiece, later for thousands of dollars. This picture book gives a sense of her life, her desire to paint, and how she used whatever she could find.

Beginning Readers

Donahue, Jill L. ***ARTFUL ANTICS***

Illus. by Amy Bailey Muehlenhardt 24p. Picture Window Bks 2007 \$19.93 ISBN 978-1-4048-2363-1

Usually 2 riddles per page with a color illustration, these groaners will grab the usual riddle crowd. “How did the man make a bandstand? He took away their chairs.” “What is a rabbit’s favorite style of music? Hip-hop.”

Holabird, Katharine **ANGELINA HAS THE HICCUPS!**

Illus. by Helen Craig 32p. Grosset & Dunlap 2006 \$3.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-448-44389-9

PAPERBACK -- Angelina's dance class is giving a performance. The day of the show, Angelina gets the hiccups, she tries everyone suggestions, but nothing works. Cousin Henry to the rescue!

Large type makes the Level 1 book appealing to beginning readers.

Parish, Herman **AMELIA BEDELIA'S MASTERPIECE**

Illus. by Lynn Sweat 64p. HarperCollins 2007 \$16.89 ISBN 978-0-06-084356-4; paper \$3.99 ISBN 978-0-06-084357-1

Amelia Bedelia visits an art museum, with the expected humorous misunderstandings. But in the story is a little information, and appreciation for a young boy's art work. Fans of the series will enjoy this episode.

Rodgers, Frank **MR. CROC ROCKS**

50p. Picture Window Books 2008 \$15.95 (school/library) ISBN 978-1-4048-4903-7

Mr. Croc loves "Croc Star" on TV and decides he will be a star, too. Too bad his singing is terrible. When success might be at hand, he makes the best decision for himself.

Fiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Avi **A BEGINNING, A MUDDLE, AND AN END**

Illus. by Tricia Tusa 164p. Harcourt 2008 \$14.95 ISBN 978-0-15-205555-4

Sequel to *The End of the Beginning*, Avon the snail has decided to write a book, his friend Edward the ant is supportive. They both find out that writing is hard work. Many, many plays on words – some may go over the readers heads but many will be understood. Silly fun.

Barnes, Derrick **BRAND-NEW SCHOOL, BRAVE NEW RUBY** (Ruby & the Booker Boys, #1)

Illus. by Vanessa Brantley Newton 130p. Scholastic 2008 \$4.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-545-01760-2

Ruby is starting 3rd grade at a new (to her) K-8 school (her old one closed) where her older brothers reign supreme. She finds a way to make her mark on her first day – by singing!
And it's in paperback!

Birdsall, Jeanne **THE PENDERWICKS ON GARDAM STREET**

308 p. Knopf 2008 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-375-84090-6

The Penderwicks are home again, but the fall brings some unsettling news. A little over four years ago their mother died, but she left a letter with Aunt Claire telling their father it is time to start dating so he won't be lonely. The girls decide they will be sure dates will be with horrible women so he will give up on the idea. A number of other complications appear, from new neighbors to a falling-out with neighbor Tommy. Playwriting and acting are a large side-story, as Skye and Jane trade school assignments with disastrous results. As delightful as the first title.

Herrick, Steven **NAKED BUNYIP DANCING**

Illus. by Beth Norling 210p. Front Street 2008 \$16.96 ISBN 978-1-59078-499-0

(According to *The American Heritage Dictionary*, a bunyip is an Australian term for an “imaginary monster [of] swamps and lagoons.” Just an FYI.)

Free verse poems tell of a 6th grade class in an Australian school, their “hippy” teacher and the way he encourages his students to explore and discover what their talents may be – for music, writing, dancing, e.g. The book concludes with the end of term class talent show.

Lewis, Maggie **MORGY’S MUSICAL SUMMER**

Illus. by Michael Chesworth 100p. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-618-77707-5

(Bk 3 about Morgy) Morgy is headed to band camp, it'll be 3 weeks away from home. His friends Byron and Clara are going, too. There is plenty to do, along with a mystery or two. The "Lost Band" a group of Revolutionary Soldiers make an appearance; and will the camp actually be closed? Lots happening in these 100 pages!

Lowry, Lois **THE WILLOUGHBYS**

Illus by author 157p. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-97974-5

The Willoughby children, Timothy, Barnaby A & B (the twins), and Jane have decided to rewrite their lives and become orphans. Their parents hired a nanny and left on vacation, attempting to sell the house while they are gone. A bit of Lemony Snicket blended with a pinch of good old-fashioned orphan stories (an assortment is listed at the back) leads to humor and a few unusual events. A ten page glossary defines some of the words used in the story: fortuitous, affable, irascible - & some of the definitions are a quite fun!

McCarthy, Rebecca **STAGED FRIGHT** (Ruby Gloom, #3)

Illus. by Artful Doodlers 75p. Grosset & Dunlap 2008 \$3.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-448-44850-3

(I haven't read the other titles), this will be a fun addition for summer '09. The characters all live in a huge old house. It's raining and they decide to all join in a talent show. While practicing, Scaredy Bat disappears, & doesn't reappear. Where is he?

Rupp, Rebecca **SARAH SIMPSON'S RULES FOR LIVING**

84p. Candlewick 2008 \$13.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-3220-5

Sarah (12) is dealing with her parent's divorce and subsequent new boy & girlfriends, her view of herself ("orange hair and fat") by making lists (mostly depressing ones). Classmate Horace brings some normalcy and grounding to her. They are in a school play, Sarah as Persephone and Horace as Hades. Sarah is clever, and her lists are humorous, touching, and sometimes a bit harsh. The book is in journal format.

Trueit, Trudi ***JULEP O'TOOLE: What I Really Want To Do Is Direct***
166p. Dutton 2007 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-47781-5

(Bk 3) Julep (11) (6th grade) needs extra credit to bring up her English grade, she ends up on the stage crew for the school play. Not thrilled, and ready to quit, she serendipitously ends up as assistant director. She is good at it and she loves it. Then the play is canceled. Julep is NOT going to let that happen!

Winkler, Henry & Lin Oliver ***THE CURTAIN WENT UP, MY PANTS FELL DOWN***
156p. Grosset & Dunlap (Penguin) 2007 \$4.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-448-44267-9

(#11 in the series) Henry's dad tells him he must get a B+ on his math test or he won't get to be the king in the school play, Anna and the King of Siam. The hardest part of this is: Heather Payne is his peer tutor in math, and she will play Anna! Funny, with Hank trying hard (not at first but eventually) to learn math for the test and his lines for the play.

Nonfiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Brend, Dawn ...[et al] ***ECOCRAFTS: Creative Costumes***
48p. Kingfisher 2007 \$7.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7534-5968-3

Brend, Dawn ...[et al] ***ECOCRAFTS: Jazzy Jewelry***
48p. Kingfisher 2007 \$7.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7534-5969-0

Craig, Rebecca ***ECOCRAFTS: Dream Bedroom***
48p. Kingfisher 2007 \$7.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7534-5966-9

Craig, Rebecca ***ECOCRAFTS: Gorgeous Gifts***
48p. Kingfisher 2007 \$7.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7534-5967-6

This series gives basic instructions on a variety of craft ideas. A "Getting started" page begins each book, giving guidance about the processes to be used, and sets the tone for the book. Photographs clarify each step presented.

Luxbacher, Irene ***1 2 3 I CAN DRAW!***

23p. Kids Can Press 2008 \$14.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-039-7

Good, basic instructions on how to draw people. Steps are clear, children are encouraged to start with the basic forms provided and then add their own personal touches to make it their own work of art. Excellent starting point.

All books in this set included a list of materials needed, given at the start of the book. They each conclude with a one-page note to parents and teachers.

Luxbacher, Irene ***1 2 3 I CAN MAKE PRINTS!***

23p. Kids Can Press 2008 \$14.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-040-3

Good, basic instructions on using sponges, pipe cleaners, art foam, fingers, and clay to make prints. Also an excellent starting point.

Luxbacher, Irene ***1 2 3 I CAN PAINT!***

23p. Kids Can Press 2007 \$12.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-037-3; paper \$5.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-150-9

Luxbacher, Irene ***1 2 3 I CAN SCULPT!***

23p. Kids Can Press 2007 \$12.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-038-0; paper \$5.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-151-6

If you get the four books in this series, you have a lot of SRP projects ready for summer! You could also use them to have a weekly “art class,” teaching the basic points covered in each title. Just an idea!

Prelutsky, Jack ***PIZZA, PIGS, AND POETRY: How to Write a Poem***

191p. Greenwillow Bks 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-143449-5

Jack Prelutsky tells of ideas he got from his mother, and other events of his life. Partial memoir, and partial “idea start” for poetry for youth. Take an idea, tell about Prelutsky’s experience & poem; then challenge kids or teens to write a poem about a related event in their lives. Includes occasional writing tips #1-20.

Ray, Deborah Kogan ***WANDA GÁG: The Girl Who Lived to Draw***

Unp. Viking 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-670-06292-8

A picture book biography of Wanda Gág and her love of drawing. Her father said on his deathbed, “What Papa couldn’t do, Wanda will have to finish.” She did all she could to live up to his confidence in her. Excellent introduction to her life and works.



Fiction for Younger Teens

Balliett, Blue ***THE CALDER GAME***

Illus. by Brett Helquist 371p. Scholastic 2008 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-439-85207-4

Calder (7th grade) and his dad take a trip to England. By coincidence, the small town where they are staying recently was given a stationary Calder piece of art. When the sculpture and the boy both disappear the same night, Calder's father asks Petra and Tommy to fly over to assist in the search, since they know well how Calder thinks. A celebration of the mobiles designed by Alexander Calder, some activities students could do, and a puzzling mystery. As good as the other titles in the series.

Coleman, Rowan ***RUBY PARTER HITS THE SMALL TIME***

223p. HarperCollins 2007 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-077628-2

Ruby, 13, attends a performing arts high school and her life seems perfect. She has had an ongoing role on a soap opera since she was 6, and she has millions of adoring fans. Now puberty has started and she feels awkward and unattractive. It could be they are going to kill her off of the soap, and then what will she have to offer to try to keep her parents together. Occasional letters from fans with problems and Ruby's replies are sprinkled throughout the book and give some insight into her growth.

Cooney, Caroline B. ***ENTER THREE WITCHES***

278p. Scholastic 2007 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-439-71156-2

A novelization of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the main character, Lady Mary, is the 14-yr-old ward of Lord & Lady MacBeth. Her father has committed treason and been hanged, she could suffer the same fate, but is instead sent to the kitchens to work as a scullery maid. When King Duncan is murdered, she fears she will also become a victim of the unscrupulous pair. Very readable with a good sense of time & place. Mary has gumption.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark ***SHOOTING THE MOON***

163p. Atheneum Bks (Simon & Schuster) 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-2690-0

12-yr-old Jamie learns her older brother is headed for Vietnam. She is thrilled since she has bought in to all the military hype her father, a Colonel, has promoted during their lives. The first letter from TJ

is to his parents, but he includes a roll of film for Jamie, and she is off to the rec center to learn how to develop it. She learns a lot more in the coming months.

Golding, Julia ***THE DIAMOND OF DRURY LANE***

424p. Roaring Brook Press 2008 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-59643-351-9

(Bk 1 of a projected 4) Cat (Catherine Royal) age unknown (prob about 12) lives in the Theatre Royal in London on Drury Lane in the 1790s. Left as a baby on the doorstep of the theatre, the owner, Mr. Sheridan, took her in. She is knowledgeable about all aspects of the theatre, and knows something of the streets as well. A mystery is brewing, Cat overheard Mr. Sheridan talking about a diamond to be hidden in the theatre, he asks her to help him keep it safe, but doesn't tell her where it is. Many adventures and dangers await Cat and her friends -- which include a Covent Garden street gang and a few members of the upper echelon of society.

Harper, Suzanne ***THE JULIET CLUB***

402p. HarperCollins 2008 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-136691-8

Kate (17) has sworn off love after she and her boyfriend broke up. She's off to Verona, Italy, with her father, a Shakespeare professor, for a seminar about Romeo & Juliet. Blends the study of "Romeo & Juliet" with some "Much Ado About Nothing" action to give a fun, with a touch of serious, look at love.

Kephart, Beth ***HOUSE OF DANCE***

263p. HarperTeen 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-142928-6

Rosie (15) feels disconnected from her mother. Her father left years ago and her mother spends too much time with her boss at work, washing windows. Rosie's grandfather is dying and she begins to spend time each day with him, helping to sort through all his stuff. On her walk to and from his house, she discovers a dance studio, and begins to form a plan to give Grandad a gift he will love.

Kephart, Beth ***UNDERCOVER***

278p. HarperTeen 2007 \$6.99 ISBN 978-0-06-123893-2

High School sophomore Elisa Cantor secretly writes notes for boys to give to their love interests. When her honors English class begins studying the play about Cyrano de Bergerac she is drawn into pondering his motives. She is interested in Theo, but he wants notes for the beautiful Lila. Lyrical writing and poetry as Elisa struggles with her place in the world.

Lawrence, Iain ***THE SÉANCE***

255p. Random House 2008 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-385-90392-9

It's the 1920s, Scooter King (13) and his mother work together to provide people with contact to the other side. They have their methods down, but now his mother is worried; Harry Houdini is

performing at the theater in town, and he will be exposing mediums while he is there. When Scooter finds a dead body in Houdini's Burmese Torture Tank, he is determined to catch the murderer. Includes information placed in the story about how mediums convinced people of their abilities -- it will catch readers attention.

Perez, Marlene ***DEAD IS THE NEW BLACK***

190p. Harcourt 2008 \$7.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-15-206408-2

Daisy, 16, is youngest daughter and the only one with no psychic powers. Her mother often helps the police and her two older sisters each have their own skills. Daisy is determined to help her mother solve a mysterious case of missing young women – even as a “norm.” When Daisy is drafted to become a substitute cheerleader, she is right in the middle of the action. A possible first boyfriend is another puzzle for her. The first of a projected series.

Runholt, Susan ***THE MYSTERY OF THE THIRD LUCRETIA***

278p. Viking 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-670-06252-2

Kari & Lucas, 14 yr old girls, happen to notice an artist in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and again a year later in the National Gallery in London. They become suspicious and begin spying on him, trying to see what he is painting, he always blocks their view. Later an announcement about a newly discovered third painting of Lucretia by Rembrandt convinces them it is a fake and the man they saw is the forger. Highly unlikely plot, this will still capture readers and pull them along with the story. (Could be a new series!)

Schmidt, Gary D. ***THE WEDNESDAY WARS***

264p. Clarion 2007 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-72483-3

Set in the 60s, Holling Hoodhood (7th gr) must stay behind Wednesday afternoons when everyone else goes to religious school (Catholic or Jewish) since he is Presbyterian. His teacher assigns him Shakespeare, and interesting things begin to happen. (2008 Newbery Honor Book; and 2010 Golden Sower YA nominee)

West, Tracy & Katherine Noll ***SINGING IN SEATTLE*** (Aly & AJ's Rock N Roll Mysteries, #3)

144p. Grosset & Dunlap 2008 \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-448-44844-2

(Aly & AJ's Rock N Roll Mysteries, #3) Aly & AJ are judges for a local songwriter's contest in Seattle. During the first competition, one person's notebook (with all the songs she's ever written) disappears – and the mystery needs to be solved. Fun look at being famous and the talent needed to write good songs.

Yoo, Paula ***GOOD ENOUGH***

322p. HarperTeen 2008 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-079085-1

Patti Yoon (Korean American) is a senior in high school and her parents are constantly after her to do well: with her violin (she loves to play), recitals, in school, preparing for the SATs, and with her behavior. It's beginning to wear her out! Then she meets the dreamy Ben, who actually talks to her and finds her clever and funny, and it is much harder to concentrate on anything! Humor, the issues of being Korean American, study tips for the SAT, her parents wanting her to be the ultimate PKD – perfect Korean Daughter, and her frequent Top Ten lists flow together and deliver touches of truth, humor, and finding your sense of self.

Nonfiction for Teens

ARTIST TO ARTIST: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children About Their Art

105p. Philomel 2007 \$30.00 ISBN 978-0-399-24600-5

Is just what it says. This will be such an inspiration to young readers. Each section on an artist has one fold out page, so 23 all together in this excellent book. (OK, Robert Sabuda's page is different from the others.)

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. *FRIDA: ¡Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!*

64p. Marshall Cavendish 2007 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-7614-5336-9

Poetry (26 free-verse poems) and reproductions of some of Frida Kahlo's paintings give a sense of her life and art. Includes a chronology of her life and a glossary of the Spanish words used in the poetry. Pura Belpré Honor Book (2008).

L IS FOR LOLLYGAG

125p. Chronicle Books 2008 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-6021-5

A book of words (and a brief definition of each) that are less often used nowadays, in the hope that they will regain favor, or at least aid teens in improving their vocabulary. Illustrated with plenty of white space, keeps the reader looking. Could be a jump off point for a program or project with teens this coming summer (e.g. find some words they missed – talk to your grandparents or older neighbors). As it says in the introduction (and quoted in SLJ): “if you ever find yourself **hornswoggled** by the neighborhood **rapscallion**, you'll be able to look the **diabolical rogue** squarely in the eye, announce you'll no longer be a victim to his merciless **machinations**, and **swagger** away, leaving him **flummoxed**.”

Miller, Ron *DIGITAL ART: Painting with Pixels*

120p. Lerner 2008 \$31.93 (\$23.95 for schools & libraries) ISBN 978-0-8225-7516-0

The history and evolution of computer art, including explanations of terms and techniques. His overall question: is digital art, art? His opinion permeates the book...yes.

Rubin, Susan Goldman *DELICIOUS: The Life and Art of Wayne Thiebaud*

108p. Chronicle Books 2007 \$15.95 ISBN 978-0-8118-5168-0

An illustration (mostly reproductions of his art) on every 2-page spread enhances this very readable (limited, larger-type text) biography of the artist. An appealing and unusual format.

Fiction for Older Teens

Johnson, Maureen ***SUITE SCARLETT***

353p. Scholastic Point 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-439-89927-7

Scarlett's (15) family owns and runs the Hopewell, a small historic hotel in New York City. It and they are barely surviving when a whirlwind checks in: Mrs. Amberson. She is soon embroiled in Scarlett's brother Spencer's acting career and has hired Scarlett to help write her memoirs. Humorous, touching, and has a bit of romance thrown in. Entertaining.

Karasyov, Carrie & Jill Kargman ***SUMMER INTERN***

184p. HarperTeen 2007 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-115375-4

Kira wins a summer internship at the ultimate fashion magazine, *Skirt*, and she is determined to learn all she can. She works hard, but sees the daughter of the magazine's owner get the plum intern job, even though she takes it rather easy. Kira has a few good friends at the magazine as she learns what is possible, and what is unhappily true, during her summer before college.

Messina, Lynn ***SAVVY GIRL***

252p. Harcourt 2008 \$7.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-15-206161-6

Chrissy (17) is spending the summer as an intern for *Savvy* Magazine, a dream come true. Then she learns the magazine is challenging each intern to write an article as a contest for the opportunity to write a monthly column for a year. Chrissy is sure she can win. Several lessons are learned. (FYI -- Attending parties with the oh-so-cool fashion editor, Jessica, gives Chrissy plenty of opportunities to drink until she is drunk.)

Meyer, Carolyn ***IN MOZART'S SHADOW: His Sister's Story***

345p. Harcourt 2008 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-15-205594-3

A fictional story of the possible life of Mozart's older sister, Maria Anna. She was a talented musician, but her brother was a genius. It gives a good sense of their childhood, traveling all over and performing for the elite, it also gives a feeling of life in Europe during the 1700s. It is a bit overlong, as Booklist noted, but well worth reading. Too bad there is no source information.

Valentine, Jenny ***ME, THE MISSING, AND THE DEAD***

201p. HarperTeen 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-085068-5

On the back cover: "I met Violet after she died. But it didn't stop me from getting to know her."

Lucas Swain (almost 16), his father disappeared 5 years ago and he still hopes to find him. 5 am Lucas walks into the cab office to get a cab and sees the urn that holds Violet's remains. From the beginning he felt her "talking" to him, and she wanted out of there. Slowly, Lucas makes discoveries, through coincidence he learns her name and that she was a famous pianist (stretch - for the SRP); and eventually asks questions of the old family friend, Bob.



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Websites:

<http://www.jacksonpollock.org/>

<http://www.mrpicassohead.com/>

teaching cross stitch or embroidery

You can check out subversivecrossstitch.com ← **Not appropriate!** (although the kits might not be appropriate it will give you some ideas)
and also sublimestitching.com,

scrap booking

- 1) Put together scrapbooks ahead of time by using sheets of acid free black paper (you can choose to do them any size). Hole punch to holes on the left side and tie it all together with a piece of ribbon. Let kids decorate their pages with the supplies you received from the store that closed.
- 2) *Get lunch size brown paper bags, five for each participant. Stack the bags one on top of the other, alternating so that the flat bottom is on the left on one back and the right on the next bag. Fold them in half and wrap a piece of raffia or other ribbon around the bag, tying it on the side. Have the participants decorate it with your supplies.
- 3) Use 8 1/2" X 11" acid free sheets of paper in various and have the participants decorate those with your supplies. You can either hole punch them to put into a report-type binder or you can slip them into protective sheets and put them in a loose leaf binder - if you can find some cheap enough.
- 4) You can tell the participants ahead of time to bring photos or just have them make the books and add their photos at home.

*I have this one at home, I can bring it to the KidsLibs meeting on Thursday if you are going to be there.

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